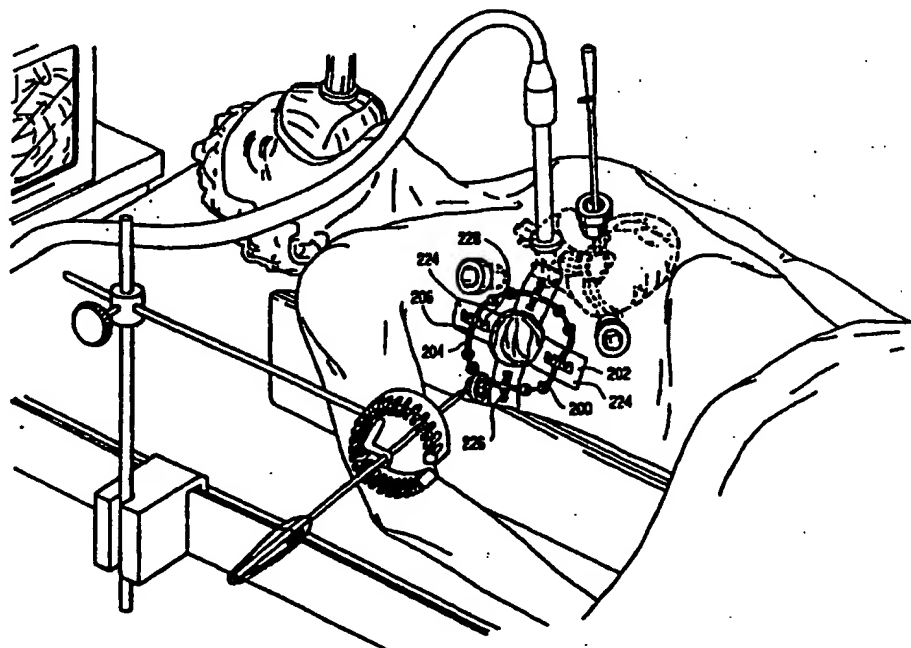




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(54) Title: RETRACTOR FOR PROVIDING SURGICAL ACCESS AND SUTURE ORGANIZER



(57) Abstract

This invention is a flexible, length-adjustable suture organizer (200) coupled to a retractor (202) having a number of flexible straps (224). The straps are tensioned to retract tissue, while the suture organizer is used to retain sutures extending through an opening created by the retractor. The retractor includes a holder (226) which retains the suture organizer.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 International application No.
 PCT/US97/03320

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : A61B 17/00, 04; 19/00

US CL : 600/201

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 128/898; 600/201, 204, 206, 208, 210, 209, 215, 226, 227, 231, 233, 235, 245; 606/1, 232, 233

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Please See Extra Sheet.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,391,156 A (HILDWEIN et al.) 21 February 1995, entire document.	1-3, 7, 12, 28, 29, 81
X — Y	US 5,213,114 A (BAILEY, JR.) 25 May 1993, entire document.	1-6, 9-11, 15-23, 27, 50-54, 56-61, 81 7, 8, 14, 24-26, 30-36, 55, 62
Y	US 4,412,532 A (ANTHONY) 01 November 1983, Fig. 2; and col. 3, lines 48 and 49.	7, 8, 24-26
Y	US 4,562,832 A (WILDER et al.) 07 January 1986, Fig. 1.	14, 30-36

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.
 ☐ See patent family annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US97/03320

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3,473,528 A (MISHKIN et al.) 21 October 1969, entire document.	63, 64, 68-71, 73, 74
X	US 4,274,398 A (SCOTT, JR.) 23 June 1981, entire document.	63, 64, 68, 69, 71, 73, 74
X	US 4,492,229 A (GRUNWALD) 08 January 1985, Fig. 5.	76
X	US 5,476,510 A (EBERHARDT et al.) 19 December 1995, Figs. 3 and 4.	47-49
A	US 4,387,706 A (GLASS) 14 June 1983, Fig. 4.	37-48

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Electronic data bases consulted (Name of data base and where practicable terms used):

APS

Search Terms: suture#, organiz?, suture organizer, retract?, 600/clos, hold?, flexible?, adjust?, suture holder#, slits, deliver? or placement or insert?, tool, 606/1/ccls, cardi?, heart, intercostal, tension?